

STATE REPRESENTATIVE LINA ORTEGA

District Update • District 77

Representing El Paso County (part)

District Update • Fall 2018



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative • District 77

Dear Neighbor,

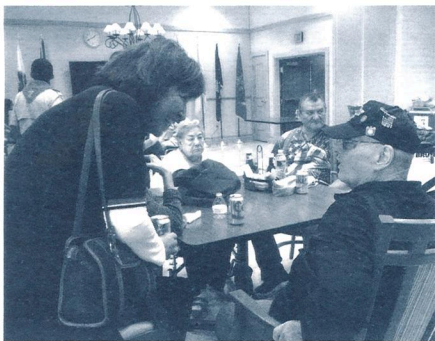
It continues to be an honor to serve in this community as your state representative during the 2017-2018 interim. This newsletter provides a brief overview of the work completed by the district office, upcoming events in House District 77, and previews the 2019 session.

Front Porch Potlucks allowed me to visit several neighborhoods in the district to meet constituents, hear about issues that matter to them, and consider their ideas on how our office can help support growth in our community. These potlucks created a space for important conversations about the state's budget and how policy changes affect our border community.

In addition to grassroots work, I also hosted information sessions in partnership with state agencies to share information about the services and resources they offer. And intergovernmental joint town halls examined how all levels of government can work together to better serve you. City representatives and county commissioners participated in town halls over the past year.

During the interim, I hosted two major community events. The first was The Frontera Roundtable, which brought representatives from the State Health and Human Services Commission to El Paso for the first time. The roundtable gave local healthcare providers the opportunity to be recognized for their important work, and share the challenges they face with state agency officials. The second was the District 77 Citizenship Clinic hosted at Bowie High School, the Pride of the Southside. This event brought immigration attorneys together to help lawful permanent residents who qualified complete their applications for U.S. citizenship.

Finally, my committees traveled throughout Texas studying various economic, port, and trade issues. And in April, the House International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on trade and tariff issues at our own city hall. These hearings offer a preview of what the legislature will work on during the next session.



I am committed to connecting constituents with the state government, and hope that you will attend future events as we work together to strengthen our community. Please contact the district office should you have any issues or concerns.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Lina Ortega in black ink.

Lina Ortega



Committees: Economic & Small Business Development • International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs
Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure, Select

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DISTRICT OUTREACH

Lawmakers refocus on their district's needs during interim year, working together with constituents in the community.

FRONT PORCH POTLUCKS

During the fall, I traveled throughout District 77 for Front Porch Potlucks, a series of informal community gatherings hosted in constituents' homes, yards and on front porches. District 77 is diverse, extending from Coronado High School, south to the ports of entry and curving back up the eastern side of the mountain to reach Irvin High School. Traveling neighborhood by neighborhood throughout the city made it possible to have important conversations about the state budget, local issues, and bills that can be introduced during the next legislative session. Front Porch Potlucks created an opportunity to hear directly from constituents and exchange ideas about how policy can address the needs of this community.



Rep. Ortega partnered with Immigration Attorneys and Advocacy groups to help legal permanent residents apply for U.S. citizenship.

JOINT TOWN HALLS

During the interim year, I hosted joint town halls to examine how city, county, and state representatives can work together to serve you better. City representatives and county commissioners participated to help clarify the different roles elected officials have in government and how state policies, programs, and laws can affect this community. As El Paso faces challenges, it is important to understand how the different levels of government can represent you.

★ *Calling Providers to enroll in State Health Programs!* ★

Healthcare providers, contractors, and clinics supporting women's healthcare services can apply to become Healthy Texas Women, Family Planning Program and/or Breast and Cervical Cancer Services providers. Contact the District 77 Office for more information on how you can become a Texas State Health Program provider.

FRONTERA ROUNDTABLE

In March, I hosted Frontera Roundtables: Connecting Women on the Border to Healthcare. The roundtable discussion brought representatives from Texas Health and Human Services Commission to El Paso to hear from local physicians, providers, community healthcare workers about the valuable work they are doing in our community. The roundtable also made it possible for those healthcare professionals to highlight the challenges they face. The discussion examined how agencies, providers, and community organizations can work together to increase women's access to health care and improve outcomes for women who give birth in the border region. This event connected local experts who are providing care to women with agencies and organizations working to improve women's access to healthcare statewide.



Rep. Ortega with Frontera Roundtable participants.

DISTRICT 77 CITIZENSHIP CLINIC

Lawful Permanent Residents took the final steps in the naturalization process during the District 77 Citizenship Clinic on in April at Bowie High School. The event was free and open to the public. The clinic helped more than 50 legal permanent residents complete their applications for U.S. citizenship and helped answer questions for over 100 people. Lawyers were on hand to pre-screen and do a final check on naturalization applications after volunteers helped applicants fill out the N-400 form. Field representatives from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and congressional district staff were available to answer questions about casework and the citizenship process. Local credit unions were also on hand to provide advice on financial services and small personal loans to pay for the application.

"SANCTUARY CITIES" CASE UPDATE

On March 13, 2018, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit ruled on the preliminary injunction allowing most of Senate Bill 4 to remain in effect. Local police officers must comply with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers and are allowed to question a detained person's immigration status. However, individuals cannot be arrested simply for being undocumented and are still protected by the Constitution. The fight against SB 4 is not over. Plaintiffs have asked the entire Fifth Circuit Court to reconsider this decision and are prepared to defeat this bill in district court or by an injunction from the Supreme Court.

CONNECTING CONSTITUENTS TO STATE SERVICES

WORKING FOR YOU

I held regular information sessions with state agency representatives to learn about the resources and services these state agencies offer in our community. The Texas Department of Public Safety provided information about how the agency combats crime and terrorism, enhances highway and public safety, and public safety licensing and regulatory services. The Texas State Board of Education discussed the work the agency does to set policies and standards for our public schools. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shared information about a pilot program that reforms the state's troubled foster care system. The pilot program will focus on training and placing caseworkers in homes to monitor cases where a risk of child abuse or neglect has been identified. DFPS will continue working to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by working with clients, families, and communities. These information sessions include a presentation, question and answer session, and an opportunity to speak directly with representatives who are working for this community.

DISTRICT & CAPITOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Do you know an exceptional individual who is interested in making a difference in our community? The district office is looking for creative thinkers, fast learners, and kind Texans committed to constituent service. Intern duties will include drafting constituent correspondence, meeting with constituents and advocacy groups, helping staff answer phones, logging data, and conducting interim research projects for upcoming policy. Please contact my district office for more details and application instructions.

The capitol office in Austin is looking for interns for the 2019 Legislative Session. Applicants should expect to be in Austin from January through May and duties will include attending briefings, conducting bill analysis, and working on our legislative agenda. Please contact my capitol office for more details and application instructions.



Rep. Ortega discussing voter registration with Bowie High School students.



Rep. Ortega and constituents meeting with Georgina Martinez, Regional Director - Region 10, for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE ACCESS CLINIC

In March, I partnered with Project Vida Health Center and University Medical Center to host a women's healthcare access clinic and enrollment session, featuring staff from the Healthy Texas Women Program. This event connected the public with agencies and organizations working to improve and increase access to health care for women across Texas. Women who qualified had the opportunity to enroll in women's health programs that provide services including family planning and breast and cervical cancer screenings. Local agencies and community organizations had tables at the event to share information about their services with attendees. Women learned about services ranging from prenatal care, wellness exams, health screenings, and family planning options. Additionally, staff was onsite to talk about auto-enrollment from Medicaid into Healthy Texas Women and health care through Healthy Texas Women, CHIP Perinatal, and the Family Planning Program of Texas. Women even had the opportunity to access direct referrals for HPV vaccinations. I hope to host more events connecting women to state health care services in the future.

★ *Learn about Health Care Programs for Women in Texas!* ★

From annual exams and family planning to cancer screenings and treatments, the Healthy Texas Women and the Texas Family Planning Programs make it easier to receive women's health care services. Contact my office to learn about these services and how to find out if you qualify.

Desde exámenes anuales y servicios de planificación familiar hasta tratamientos y pruebas de detección de enfermedades "Healthy Texas Women" y el Programa de Planificación Familiar de Texas facilitan la búsqueda de servicios de salud para mujeres. Comuníquese con la oficina del distrito para obtener más información sobre estos servicios y cómo saber si califica.

★ *Stay Informed* ★

For more information about ongoing events in the district, to join our email list. Please contact us with subject line "JOIN" at District77.Ortega@house.texas.gov. And follow our work on Facebook and Twitter!

INTERIM HEARINGS

House and Senate Committees meet regularly during the spring and summer to study problems and recommend solutions for the next session, which convenes in January 2019.

HOUSE PANEL IN EL PASO

In April, the Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs held a hearing in El Paso on binational trade issues. I chaired the hearing, which featured expert testimony about the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations and steel and aluminum tariffs on the state's economy. I was proud to host this event in our community and will continue working on trade issues that are important to our community and the entire world.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS ACROSS THE STATE

International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs - In addition to the hearing in El Paso on trade and tariff issues, this committee held a hearing in Weslaco to review port infrastructure and border wait times.

Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure, Select - This committee held a hearing in Galveston to study the possibility of public-private partnerships for financing improvements to Texas' port infrastructure. The committee also held a hearing in Corpus Christi to identify ways to modernize port access and freight mobility needs.

Economic & Small Business Development -

This committee held a hearing in Richardson to study high-tech startups, the state's current economic development incentives, and evaluate whether current policy is effectively closing workforce skills gaps. The committee also held a hearing in Austin to examine the aviation, aerospace, and defense manufacturing industry's relationship to veteran employment, as well as veteran support services. The committee then reviewed Hurricane Harvey's economic and workforce impact and analyzed how current job training resources are contributing to the recovery of the state's workforce.



Rep. Ortega in an Economic & Small Business Development hearing studying veteran employment issues.

WORKING GROUP ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Speaker appointed me to a bi-partisan House workgroup that will study sexual harassment in the Legislature. Building on the previous work of the House Administration Committee, the workgroup will hold meetings between now and January and make recommendations for any necessary rule changes to promote a professional work environment. It is critical that the Legislature lead by example in protecting employees from sexual harassment.

86TH SESSION PREVIEW

The 86th Legislature will convene on January 8, 2019. The House will be led by a new speaker for the first time in 10 years, which means you can expect to see different committee chairs and the House may operate under new rules. As members retire and new members are sworn in, seniority rankings will increase, allowing me to better serve District 77.



Rep. Ortega with Reps. Shaheen, Anchia, and Parker on Rim Road in El Paso.

The upcoming session will have a challenging budget process because of Hurricane Harvey costs and previous decisions that decreased state revenue. I hope the Legislature uses the Rainy Day Fund, which is expected to reach \$11.9 billion, to maintain current funding levels and pay outstanding debts, like Teachers Retirement System Health Care. Some issues that I plan to focus on include:

- Public health issues, specifically improving women's health programs
- Economic development and downtown revitalization
- Protecting voting rights
- Increased funding for transportation and education in El Paso
- Increased opportunities for small businesses and workforce development

Both offices will be working to ensure that the views of El Pasoans are represented in Austin during the session. Please contact the district office to find out how you can get involved and make your voices heard.

DIPUTADO ESTATAL LINA ORTEGA

Informe del Distrito • Distrito 77

Representando parte del Condado de El Paso

Informe del Distrito • Otoño 2018



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative • District 77

Estimado vecino,

Ha continuado siendo un honor servir en esta comunidad como su Representante Estatal durante el interino de 2017-2018. Este boletín ofrece una breve descripción general del trabajo realizado por la oficina del distrito, le informa sobre los próximos eventos en el Distrito 77 y presenta una vista previa de la sesión 2019.

Front Porch Potlucks me permitieron visitar electores en sus barrios, escuchar sobre las temas estatales que les importan y considerar sus ideas sobre cómo nuestra oficina puede ayudar y apoyar nuestra comunidad. Estos convivios crearon un espacio para conversaciones importantes sobre el presupuesto del Estado y sobre cómo los cambios de política afectan a nuestra comunidad fronteriza.

Además del trabajo de base, también organicé sesiones de información en asociación con agencias estatales para compartir información sobre los servicios y recursos que ofrecen. Estos ayuntamientos conjuntos intergubernamentales examinaron cómo todos los niveles de gobierno pueden trabajar juntos para proporcionar un servicio público completo y cooperativo. Los representantes de la ciudad y los comisionados del condado participaron en los ayuntamientos durante el año pasado.

Durante el interino, organicé dos eventos comunitarios. El primero fue la Frontera Roundtable, que trajo a representantes de la Comisión Estatal de Salud y Servicios Humanos a El Paso para hablar por primera vez sobre el cuidado de la salud de las mujeres en la frontera. La mesa redonda brindó a los proveedores locales de servicios de salud la oportunidad de ser reconocidos por su importante trabajo y compartir los retos que enfrentan con las programas estatales de salud.

El segundo fue la Clínica de Ciudadanía del Distrito 77 alojada en Bowie High School, el “Orgullo del Southside”. Este evento reunió a los abogados de inmigración para ayudar a los residentes permanentes legales que calificaron a completar sus solicitudes de ciudadanía de Estados Unidos.

Finalmente, mis comités viajaron a través de Texas estudiando diversos asuntos económicos, portuarios y comerciales. Y en abril, el Comité de Comercio Internacional y Asuntos Intergubernamentales de la Cámara el comité celebró una sesión sobre cuestiones comerciales y arancelarias en nuestro propio ayuntamiento. Estas sesiones ofrecen una mirada al trabajo que la legislatura hará en nuestro Capitolio del Estado durante la próxima Sesión Legislativa.



Me comprometo a conectar a los constituyentes con el gobierno del estado. Espero que participen en eventos futuros para que podamos trabajar juntos para fortalecer nuestra comunidad. Por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina del distrito en caso de tener problemas o preguntas.

Lina Ortega



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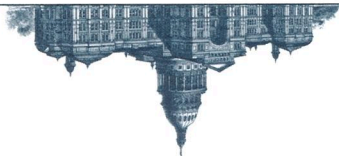
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Legislative Report • District 77

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HELPFUL NUMBERS • NÚMEROS ÚTILES

Attorney General's Office
Child Support Payment Inquiry800-252-8014
Consumer Protection.....800-621-0508
Crime Victim Compensation.....800-983-9933
Governor's Assistance Hotline800-843-5789
Texas Veterans Commission.....800-252-8387

Reporting Child Abuse800-252-5400
Texas Dept. of Aging & Disability Services800-458-9858
Texas Dept. of Insurance800-578-4677
Texas Council on Family Violence.....800-799-7233
Texas Workforce Commission (Unemployment)...800-558-8321
Texas Healthy Women toll free line866-993-9972